

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (new): An apparatus for separating layers of tissue comprising:

a first tubular member having an open proximal end and an open distal end defining a bore therethrough;

a first inflatable member disposed on the distal end of the first tubular member, the first inflatable member having an uninflated state and an inflated state;

a second tubular member having an open proximal end and an open distal end defining a bore therethrough, the second tubular member being configured and dimensioned for slidably receiving the first tubular member and the first inflatable member in the uninflated state; and

a second inflatable member disposed on the distal end of the second tubular member, the second inflatable member having an uninflated state and an inflated state.

Claim 3 (new): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first tubular member further comprises a first inner member disposed with the first tubular member and defining an annular space therebetween, the annular space in fluid communication with the first inflatable member.

Claim 4 (new): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the second tubular member further comprises a second inner member disposed within the second tubular member and defining an annular

space therebetween, the annular space in fluid communication with the second inflatable member.

Claim 5 (new): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first inflatable member has a substantially toroidal configuration and defines a first aperture therein.

Claim 6 (new): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first aperture is aligned with the bore of the first tubular member, the first aperture and the bore being configured and dimensioned for slidably receiving a surgical instrument therethrough.

Claim 7 (new): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the second inflatable member has a substantially toroidal configuration and defines a second aperture therein.

Claim 8 (new): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the second aperture is dimensioned for slidably receiving the first tubular member, the first tubular member being dimensioned for slidably receiving a surgical instrument.

Claim 9 (new): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the second aperture is dimensioned for slidably receiving the first tubular member and a surgical instrument.